

# Washington State Patrol Media Advisory

*Chief John R. Batiste*

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date:** October 16, 2006  
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## **“Homeward Bound” Update Missing Child Found**

**Where:** *Gordon Trucking Inc.  
151 Stewart Rd. SW  
Pacific, WA 98047*

**When:** *Tuesday, October 17, 2006*

**Time:** *10:00 a.m.*

**Speaker:** *Captain Mark Couey, Washington State Patrol  
Steve Gordon, Gordon Trucking Inc.  
Sandy Pedigo, mother of Shania Supanich*

**Additional Interview Opportunities include:** *Shania Supanich and her mother Sandy Pedigo; Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal David Miller, US Marshal Service; Captain Mark Couey, Washington State Patrol Investigative Assistance Division; Sue Miller, Missing Children Clearinghouse Coordinator; Trooper Renee Padgett, WSP Commercial Vehicle Division; and Steve Gordon, Gordon Trucking Inc.*

**Why:** Shania Supanich has been safely returned to her mother. She was taken on June 14, 2004 by her non-custodial father and after 2 1/2 years of work through crime stoppers, fliers, and our Homeward Bound Program which was launched 6 months ago placing Shania’s picture on the side of one of the Gordon Trucking Co. trailers, we are excited to announce that we will now be placing a recovered sign over the poster, since the US Marshal’s office was able to successfully recover Shania and bring her home to her mother.

At any given time there are approximately 1,700 missing children in Washington State, including children who have been abducted and runaways. During calendar year 2005, the Clearinghouse assisted local law enforcement agencies and families in the recovery of 131 missing children. Many of these cases involved custodial interference, which involved a non-custodial parent illegally taking a child and fleeing.

**Photo Opportunity:** The Gordon truck featuring Shania will be at the event, with a recovered sign over the poster. In addition, Shania and her mother will both like to tell their story in hopes of getting the word out on similar cases to bring more children home.

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